

# MINUTES

Climate Protection Action Committee  
Monthly Appointee Meeting  
Tuesday, April 6th, 2021  
8:30 a.m.



**Members/staff present:** Robert Anderson, Mary Pat Baldauf, Gretchen Lambert, Zach Laprise, Bob Petrulis, Clint Shealy, Tamera Warren, Samantha Yager, Lori Ziolkowski.

**Guests:** Barbara Bowers, Climate Reality Project and Sierra Club; Nina Grey, Climate Reality Project; Priscilla Preston, Vice Chair SC Sierra Club and Chair Midlands Chapter, Sierra Club; Jane Przybys, Climate Reality Project.

Clint Shealy had a City Council meeting to attend at 8:45 a.m., so Dr. Z. moved him up to first on the agenda. Clint reported that the City has been working toward a small solar installation at the Wastewater Treatment Plant for the last few years. The project is currently in Dominion's interconnection queue, and because so many people joined the queue early on, expects it could be a year before there is action. With that in mind, the City has requested that Dominion consider a queue reform to let those who are serious about solar move forward.

During those conversations, there has been some discussion about the possible installation of a large solar farm (50-75 mw range), which would move the City toward Ready for 100 and create the opportunity for partnerships with Richland County and USC. Clint said that he would have one requirement for the project: no increased power costs for the City or residents.

There is an April 14 meeting scheduled to discuss a possible proposal. Clint is cautiously optimistic, but said it is premature to speculate. Clint will contact Dr. Z. after the meeting to bring her up-to-date on any developments. Dr. Z. said that she is less optimistic as a result of some meetings and conversations she's been part of, but understands why the City needs to take this route. There were no questions for Clint, so he left for Council.

The minutes from CPAC's March meetings were reviewed. Gretchen made a motion that the minutes be accepted as presented; Bob seconded it. The group approved the motion unanimously.

Next was the election of officers: chair, vice chair and secretary. Dr. Z. said that if the group wanted her to continue as chair, she is willing to stay. Current vice-chair Gretchen Lambert said that she would like to serve as secretary for the coming year. Tamera Warren

recommend Bob Petrulis as a candidate for vice chair, and he agreed to serve. The slate was officially presented and approved unanimously. City Council has asked to approve officers; until that happens, officers will serve in “elect” position. Mary Pat will contact Clerk of Council about getting the new officer approval on the Council agenda.

Dr. Z. then called for an update on the March 18 Energy 101 webinar that CPAC hosted. Tamera Warren, who served on the coordinating group and moderated the event, said that approximately 20 people watched the webinar, which covered ways residents could save on utility bills. Bob added that they hope to do these quarterly, and perhaps gear the next one to small businesses.

Dr. Z. then asked Gretchen and Jane for an update on the possible energy labelling effort. Jane explained that the State Energy Office recommended starting with an informal, voluntary energy scorecard to involve others then slowly move it to a required program/policy. They also recommended finding and using case studies, and perhaps partnering with a community with an HOA to help communicate with residents, starting with a group of about 10 houses. Jane added that with the monies coming into SC, now may be the time to be more aggressive. She thinks that adding a social justice impact and making an economic case for the program/policy would be a positive move. If anyone is interested in helping brainstorm this, please contact Gretchen for details.

In staff reports, Robert said that the City may add an electric garbage truck to the fleet. Such a vehicle would cost \$600k, compared to \$180k for a traditional one, but there may be new administration funds available to help offset costs. They’re trying to get a demonstration scheduled, but he said that he knows it’s a very quiet vehicle.

Sam noted that the recycling prices are climbing and that the recycling expenses, while still high, is going down as a result. She mentioned some outreach events, including one with the Recycling Wizard in Robert’s neighborhood. Mary Pat mentioned an Earth Day event at Boyd Plaza at during the April 24 Soda City Market. The event is being coordinated by Midlands members of the Environmental Educators Association of SC (EEASC) and will feature tables from Green Step Schools and mentors, including the City of Columbia.

In new business, it was announced that the Advisory Group will be meeting on Tuesday, May 4 after the CPAC appointee meeting. Between now and then, the group needs to get their ducks in a row on how to conduct the meeting and involve these members. That will be added to the working meeting agenda for April 20, in addition to communications and the conference with USC.

Bob made a motion that the meeting be adjourned at 9:35 a.m., which carried unanimously.